

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 1. (Currently Amended) In a converged services platform, a media resources card com-
2 prising:

3 a central processing unit (CPU) and an associated CPU cache memory;

4 a plurality of digital signal processors (DSPs), each of which has an associated
5 DSP cache memory, ~~connected~~coupled in communicating relationship with said CPU;
6 and

7 a network interface, ~~connected~~coupled in communicating relationship with said
8 CPU, through which said media resources card may communicate with a file server;

9 wherein said CPU and DSPs execute a caching algorithm in which a cached file
10 may be assigned at least one of a persistence level attribute ~~or and~~ a timer expiration at-
11 tribute ~~or both, said persistence level attribute for specifying how readily or not said~~
12 ~~cached file may be deleted from one or more of said cache memories, said expiration~~
13 ~~time attribute for specifying a time period after which said cached file may be deleted~~
14 ~~from one or more of said cache memories.~~

1 2. (New) The converged services platform as in claim 1, wherein said persistence
2 level attribute includes programming for specifying how readily or not said cached file
3 may be deleted from one or more of said cache memories.

1 3. (New) The media resources card as in claim 2, wherein said persistence level may
2 be assigned a value of "hard" denoting that said cached file is not to be removed from
3 said cache memories.

1 4. (New) The media resources card as in claim 2, wherein said persistence level may
2 be assigned a value of “hard” denoting that said cached file is a cached recording file,
3 not to be removed from cache until said cached file is stored to a non-volatile storage
4 medium.

1 5. (New) The media resources card as in claim 2, wherein said persistence level may
2 be assigned a value of “soft” denoting that said cached file is to remain in said cache
3 memories until a Least Recently Used (LRU) algorithm removes it.

1 6. (New) The media resources card as in claim 5, wherein said persistence level may
2 be assigned a value of “firm” denoting that said cached file is to remain in said cache
3 memories until after substantially all “soft” cached files have been removed, said
4 “firm” cached files also being removed then by an LRU algorithm.

1 7. (New) The media resources card as in claim 2, wherein said persistence level may
2 be assigned a value of “none” denoting that said cached file is to be removed from said
3 cache memories for any reason.

1 8. (New) The converged services platform as in claim 1, wherein said expiration time
2 attribute includes programming for specifying a time period after which said cached file
3 may be deleted from one or more of said cache memories.

1 9. (New) The media resources card as in claim 1, wherein said timer expiration at-
2 tribute overrides said persistence level attribute.

1 10. (New) The media resources card as in claim 1, further comprising: an application
2 program for setting said timer expiration attribute and said persistence level attribute of
3 said cached files on a per file basis.

1 11. (New) A method for use in a converged services platform having a central proc-
2 essing unit (CPU) and a plurality of digital signal processors (DSPs), one of said DSPs
3 being assigned for playback of a requested file, said method comprising the steps of:
4 executing a caching algorithm for said requested file, said caching algorithm re-
5 sulting in a cached file stored on a cache memory of at least one of said CPU and said
6 DSPs; and
7 assigning at least one of a persistence level attribute and a timer expiration attrib-
8 ute to said cached file.

1 12. (New) The method as in claim 11, wherein said persistence level attribute includes
2 programming for specifying how readily or not said cached file may be deleted from one
3 or more of said cache memories.

1 13. (New) The method as in claim 12, further comprising: assigning said persistence
2 level of said cached file a value of "hard" denoting that said cached file is not to be re-
3 moved from said cache memories.

1 14. (New) The method as in claim 12, further comprising: assigning said persistence
2 level of said cached file a value of "hard" denoting that said cached file is a cached re-
3 cording file, not to be removed from cache until said cached file is stored to a non-
4 volatile storage medium.

1 15. (New) The method as in claim 12, further comprising: assigning said persistence
2 level of said cached file a value of “soft” denoting that said cached file is to remain in
3 said cache memories until a Least Recently Used (LRU) algorithm removes it.

1 16. (New) The method as in claim 15, further comprising: assigning said persistence
2 level of said cached file a value of “firm” denoting that said cached file is to remain in
3 said cache memories until after substantially all “soft” cached files have been removed,
4 said “firm” cached files also being removed then by an LRU algorithm

1 17. (New) The method as in claim 12, further comprising: assigning said persistence
2 level of said cached file a value of “none” denoting that said cached file is to be re-
3 moved from said cache memories for any reason.

1 18. (New) The method as in claim 11, wherein said timer expiration attribute includes
2 programming for specifying a time period after which said cached file may be deleted
3 from one or more of said cache memories.

1 19. (New) The method as in claim 11, wherein said timer expiration attribute over-
2 rides said persistence level attribute.

1 20. (New) The method as in claim 11, further comprising the step of: setting said
2 timer expiration attribute and said persistence level attribute of said cached files on a
3 per file basis.

1 21. (New) The method as in claim 11, wherein said step of executing a caching algo-
2 rithm further comprises the steps of:

3 determining whether or not said requested file is contained within a cache mem-
4 ory of said converged services platform;

5 in response to a file not contained within a cache memory of said converged
6 services platform:

7 i) retrieving, at said CPU, said requested file from an associated file
8 server;

9 ii) caching said requested file in a cache memory of at least one of said
10 CPU and said assigned playback DSP;

11 in response to a file contained within said cache memory of said assigned play-
12 back DSP:

13 i) performing a playback of said file from said cache memory of said as-
14 signed playback DSP; and

15 in response to a file contained within said cache memory of said converged serv-
16 ices platform, but not contained within said cache memory of said assigned playback
17 DSP:

18 i) caching said file to said cache memory of said assigned playback DSP
19 contemporaneously with playback of said file from said cache memory of
20 said converged services platform containing said file.

1 22. (New) In a converged services platform, a media resources card comprising:

2 a central processing unit (CPU);

3 a plurality of digital signal processors (DSPs), one of said DSPs being assigned
4 for playback of a requested file;

5 means for executing a caching algorithm for said requested file, said caching al-
6 gorithm resulting in a cached file stored on a cache memory of at least one of said CPU
7 and said DSPs; and

- 8 means for assigning at least one of a persistence level attribute and a timer expi-
9 ration attribute to said cached file.